Additional Custom Duty and Additional Custom duty in lieu of Central Excise.

Revival of BOGL, Durgapur

*94. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the product line of Bharat Opthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL), Durgapur;

(b) whether it is the only unit in the country manufacturing flint buttons;

(c) whether the strategic importance of BOGL was accepted by AAIFR in its hearing on revival of the company; and

(d) if so, Government's action plan in reviving BOGL as per the directions of the AAIFR?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKADER BAKHT): (a) The product line of Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur is Ophtalmic Flint Buttons (for use in bifocal lenses), Optical Glass items and Radiation Shielding Windows.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) AAIFR during its hearing observed that "the strategic importance of BOGL's production has not been denied by any party."

(d) As per the directions of AAIFR, the Operating Agency viz. IDBI prepared a revival package which was considered by the Government. Further, another revival package submitted by the management and the employees union of BOGL was also considered.

In both the draft revival packages it was found that the schemes would not establish long term economic and commercial viability of BOGL, even with financial restructuring and fresh infusion of funds.

However, to mitigate the hardships of the employees an employee friendly Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) has been introduced in BOGL with effect from 1.12.1998. It has been decided to extend the validity of VSS which was open upto 28.2.1999 for a further period of three months. It has also been decided to examine the viability of the company through a group of experts.

विदेशी व्यापार को बढ़ावा दिया जाना

*95. श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह:
श्री कपिल सिब्बल:

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में विविध सरकारी तथा अर्ध-सरकारी संस्थाएं विदेशी व्यापार को प्रोत्साहित करने के कार्य में लगी हुई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश में विदेशी व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए स्वदेश में, विदेश में, तथा स्वदेश और विदेश, दोनों में कार्यरत संस्थाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा उक्त प्रत्येक संस्था पर प्रतिवर्ष कितनी-कितनी धनराशि व्यय की जाती है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े) (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) वाणिज्य मंत्री के तत्वावधान में देश तथा विदेश में विदेश व्यापार का संवर्धन करने में कार्यरत विभिन्न सरकारी तथा अर्द्ध-सरकारी संस्थाओं तथा 1997-98 के दौरान निर्यात संवर्धन के लिए सरकार द्वारा बाजार विकास और सहायता (एम०डी०ए०) निधि से इन संस्थाओं को रिलीज की गई राशि से संबंधित ब्यौरे विवरण में दिए गए हैं।